

Serial No. 10/677,759
60130-1900; 01MRA0330

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A door latch assembly comprising:

a release lever movable about a release lever axis;

a lock lever moveable about a lock lever axis, wherein the release lever and the lock lever are movable between a latched unlocked position, a latched locked position, and an unlatched position; and

a resilient assembly connected between the release lever and the lock lever, the resilient assembly having:

a first retainer having a first seat and a first load application feature,

a second retainer having a second seat and a second load application feature, wherein the first seat and the second seat substantially face each other, and

a resilient member supported between the first seat and the second seat and positioned between the first load application feature and the second load application feature, wherein the resilient member is biased to resist a tensile force applied to both the first load application feature and the second load application feature, the tensile force tending to move the first seat and the second seat toward each other and to move the release lever relative to the lock lever when the lock lever and the release lever are in the unlatched position.

2. (ORIGINAL) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and lock lever move from the latched unlocked position to the latched locked position.

3. (ORIGINAL) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and lock lever move from the latched locked position to the latched unlocked position.

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4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first retainer and the second retainer includes a recess that receives at least a portion of the resilient member.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 4, wherein the recess includes an additional seat, and wherein the resilient member is mounted between the additional seat and at least one of the first seat and the second seat ~~and the additional seat~~.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 5, wherein the additional seat and the said at least one of the first seat and the second seat ~~and the additional seat~~ hold the resilient member in a preloaded position.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 6, wherein the additional seat comprises a first additional seat and a second additional seat, and the first retainer comprises the first additional seat and the second retainer comprises the second additional seat.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the first seat, ~~and the second seat,~~ and the first additional seat and the second additional seat are arranged to allow lost motion between the resilient member and one of the first retainer and the second retainer ~~and the resilient member~~.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the first seat, ~~and the second seat,~~ and the first additional seat and the second additional seat are arranged to preload the resilient member.

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10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the first retainer further comprises a first projection that projects from the first seat and a first additional projection that projects from the first additional seat, wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first projection and the first additional projection.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The door latch assembly of claim 10, wherein the second retainer further comprises a second projection that projects from the second seat and a second additional projection that projects from the second additional seat, and wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first projection and the first additional projection of the first retainer and the second projection and the second additional projection of the second retainer, wherein at least one of the first projection and the first additional projection overlaps with at least one of the second projection and the second additional projection.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim 11, wherein ~~said the~~ at least one of the first projection and the first additional projection overlaps with ~~said the~~ at least one of the second projection and the second additional projection when the release lever and the lock lever are in the unlatched position.

13-25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim ~~10~~1, wherein the first retainer surrounds the resilient member.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The door latch assembly of claim ~~11~~1, wherein the second retainer surrounds the resilient member.

28. (CANCELLED)

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29. (NEW) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the first retainer and the second retainer are formed from a sheet material.

30. (NEW) The door latch assembly of claim 29, wherein the sheet material is sheet metal.

31. (NEW) The door latch assembly of claim 10, wherein the first projection has a different length than the first additional projection.

32. (NEW) The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient member is one selected from the group consisting of a spring, a tube of resilient material and a block of resilient material.